

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

DECEMBER, 2011

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Frank Morris III, Vice President; Mr. Wuyanbu Zutali, Member; Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary; and Mr. Douglas Foltz, Assistant Director. There were also a few attendees at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

The first item of business was the reading of the minutes of the November 9, 2011 regular meeting. A motion was made by F. Morris to approve them as written. A second was provided by W. Zutali, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Old Riverside Park Issues - The Director reported that he had talked to Mr. Burns of the Law Department recently. Mr. Burns told him the issue was still in Washington D.C. for review by some oversight committee. This committee will advise the National Park Service with regard to the conversion, but until then nothing can be done with the property.

The issue remained tabled.

2. Park Brochure Development - The Director reported that the Engineer's Office had told him that an extern was to be starting on January 3rd in their office who would then work on our map.

The issue remained tabled.

3. Possible Dominion Easements Reifsnyder, Oak and Martindale Parks - The Director reported no easements had yet been presented to the City.

The issue remained tabled.

4. Recycle/Ad Proposal - The Director noted that Mr. Gordon had stated before that there would not be anything new with regard to this issue until spring, 2012.

The issue remained tabled.

5. Possible transfer of Crenshaw Park Property to SARTA - Mr. Morris stated he had seen the letter to Councilmember Smith and wondered how the money would be spent?

The Director stated that if the items mentioned in the letter were to be on someone else's property, it would not be the Park Commission. Mr. Morris stated that it would then be between the City and Councilperson Smith.

Mr. Black stated he was concerned that nothing was in writing, and there did not seem to be a plan. He also stated once the Board released the property, they would no longer have any control.

Councilwoman Smith stated they were working with the people who were doing the plan for the water park.

A motion was made by A. Black to release the property, but only after a final plan had been approved by the Park Commission and that this release would only be good for six months from today's date. A second was provided by W. Zutali, and the motion was then approved by the following vote:

Mr. Black - Yes
Mr. Morris - Yes
Mr. Zutali - Yes

6. Informal City Council Resolution regarding Nimisilla Park - The Director stated he had nothing new to report.

The issue remained tabled.

7. City Council Ordinance regarding a Special Park Fund for Nimisilla Park - Mr. Morris reported that he had talked to Councilmember West and asked him for a proposal. He had not heard anything so he recommended the item be dropped from the agenda pending new information.
8. Possible Clear Channel Sign location in West Park - Mr. Morris reported that he had talked to Mr. Yale of Clear Channel. Mr. Yale had told him that he was having a problem with ODOT and spot zoning. Mr. Yale had asked Mr. Morris to help with the City to obtain spot zoning. Mr. Morris stated he would not look to influence a spot zoning issue. Mr. Morris stated they still had to get approval from any City departments so the issue should remain tabled.
9. Hall of Fame Expenses - Mr. Black reported that a letter was being worked on for the Recreation Board's, the Park Commission's and the Service Director's signatures to go to the Chamber asking for some reimbursement of expenses. He stated the Service Director had some concerns that were being worked out.

Mr. Black also stated a lunch meeting with members of the Chamber had also been arranged.

The issue remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Joel Dine proposal for possible donation to Park System - Mr. Joel Dine addressed the Board. Mr. Dine first explained he was not looking to make a donation to the Park System. He stated he was looking for a park location to develop a small amusement park for children aged one through ten. He told the Board that his family had been in business for 70 years, and he has ran it for the last 25 years. He also told the Board that he had talked to someone downtown about the Kresge block, and they had told him it was not available and to contact the Park Commission.

Mr. Morris stated it sounded like a Tuscora Park type setup.

Mr. Zutali asked him if he had a location in mind? Mr. Dine stated he did not as yet. The Director asked how much area would be needed? He stated it could be done on ½ acre, but an acre would be better for possible expansion. He also stated he would need a parking area.

Mr. Black stated he would not mind seeing something like this, but there were real problems the last time a proposal was made for something like this so location was a touchy issue. Mr. Black stated he would like to see a business model.

Mr. Foltz talked about the old Mother Goose Land area.

Mr. Dine was asked how many people the area could handle. He said there would be 16 or more attractions, and he figures people would stay 4 to 6 hours.

Mr. Dine stated he would ask for a site, electric, fencing, and water and would like to be near other park facilities.

Mr. Dine was also asked to look at locations and come back with a proposal.

Mr. Dine asked if Mr. Black would be available to meet before the next meeting. Mr. Black stated he could after the first of the year.

Mr. Dine thanked the Board for their time and left the meeting.

2. Use requests:

- A. Cystic Fibrosis Foundation requesting to use Stadium & Monument Parks on Saturday, May 5, 2012, to hold their annual "Great Strides" Walk-a-thon
- B. American Cancer Society requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks on Sunday, October 28, 2012, to hold their annual "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" 5K Fund Raising Walk
- C. Stark County Urban Minority Alcohol & Drug Addiction Outreach Project requesting to use Nimisilla Park on June 16, 2012, to hold their annual "Juneteenth" Celebration

The Board reviewed the above requests. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve them with an insurance requirement. A second was provided by W. Zutali, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1. The Canton Marathon requesting to use Stadium and Monument Parks on Sunday, February 5, 2012, to hold their "Big Game 10K Race" event and on Sunday, June 17, 2012, to hold their "Canton Marathon" event.

A motion to approve these requests with an insurance requirement was made by A. Black. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by unanimous vote.

- 2. At this time Mr. Black made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. A second to the motion was made by F. Morris. The motion was then passed by the following vote:

Mr. Black - Yes
Mr. Morris - Yes
Mr. Zutali - Yes

- 3. At 5:44 p.m. a motion was made by A. Black to return to Open Session. A second was provided by F. Morris. The motion was then approved by the following vote:

Mr. Black - Yes
Mr. Morris - Yes
Mr. Zutali - Yes

4. Mr. Black made a motion to appoint Service Director Price to be the Employment Status Hearing Officer as may be needed for the Park Commission and then return recommendations to the Board. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion then passed by the following vote:

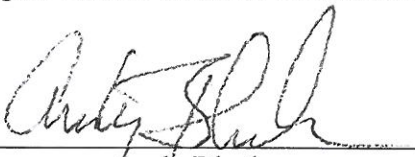
Mr. Black - Yes
Mr. Morris - Yes
Mr. Zutali - Yes


5. Park Commission employee Bonnie Vincent requesting a leave of absence for the period of January 12, 2012 thru and including January 19, 2012.

Ms. Vincent was informed that the Board had been advised that they were not her appointing authority and were not sure they could approve her request. However, the Director stated he believed the Board was the appointing authority for Ms. Vincent. The Director was instructed to check on Ms. Vincent's status.

A motion was made by A. Black to approve Ms. Vincent's request if it was confirmed the Board was her appointing authority. A second was provided by F. Morris, and the motion was then approved by unanimous vote.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Andy Black
President

Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary